

EXAMINER'S COMMENT

A Notice of Allowance was mailed on 07/23/2009 in which claims 45-46 were allowed. However, subsequent to the Examiner's preparation of the Notice of Allowance, the Applicant submitted additional Information Disclosure Statements (IDS), filed on 07/07/2009 and 07/30/2009, which were considered on 09/15/2009 and found to be immaterial to patentability. Subsequently, Applicant has submitted further additional references in yet another IDS, filed 09/15/2009, which are now being considered.

After examining the additional references cited in the IDS, the Examiner finds that the additional references (foreign references *Tamaoki et al.* and *Asano et al.*) do not contain any additional information material to patentability. Thus, in view of the subsequently filed IDS, the Examiner maintains the Reasons for Allowance mailed on 07/23/2009.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT A. ZARE whose telephone number is (571)270-3266. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Gart can be reached on (571) 272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew S Gart/
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